

What is claimed is:

1. An information service method, comprising the steps of:

recording identification information that is unique to a non-recordable data recording medium thereto;

correlatively storing the identification information recorded on the data recording medium at the identification information recording step and management information of the data recording medium;

reading the identification information from the data recording medium when data is reproduced from the data recording medium;

transmitting the identification information that has been read at the identification information reading step to a communication network;

receiving the identification information transmitted at the transmitting step through the communication network and reading the management information that has been correlated with the identification information and stored at the storing step in accordance with the received identification information; and

providing a service in accordance with the management information that has been read at the management information reading step.

2. The information service method as set forth

in claim 1,

wherein the data recording medium is an optical disc of which a reproduction signal is obtained in accordance with reflected light of radiated light.

5       3.       The information service method as set forth in claim 1,

wherein the management information contains use limit information that represents a license of a user for content data recorded on the data recording medium.

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4.       The information service method as set forth in claim 3,

wherein the use limit information contains at least one of the number of times the content data recorded on the data recording medium can be reproduced, the reproduction expiration date and time, and the number of times the content data recorded on the data recording medium can be copied.

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5.       The information service method as set forth in claim 3, further comprising:

setting the use limit information when the data recording medium is obtained,

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wherein the management information that is correlated with the identification information and stored at the storing step is set in accordance with the use limit information that has been set at the use limit information setting step.

6. The information service method as set forth  
in claim 1,

wherein when the data recording medium is  
used, the identification information is read from the  
data recording medium and the management information is  
rewritten in accordance with the identification  
information that has been read and a use mode.

5 7. The information service method as set forth  
in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

10 issuing key data that allows the content data  
recorded on the data recording medium to be reproduced  
in accordance with the management information that has  
been read at the management information reading step.

8. The information service method as set forth  
15 in claim 7,

wherein the key data issued at the key  
issuing step is transmitted to a reproducing side that  
reproduces data from the data recording medium through  
the communication network.

20 9. The information service method as set forth  
in claim 7,

wherein license information for content data  
recorded on the data recording medium is added to the  
key data issued at the key issuing step in accordance  
25 with the management information and transmitted through  
the communication network.

10. An information service system, comprising:

an identification information recording unit  
for recording identification information that is unique  
to a non-recordable data recording medium thereto;

an information terminal unit having:  
5                  reproducing means for reproducing data from  
the data recording medium, and  
                identification information reading means for  
reading the identification information from a  
reproduction output of the reproducing means; and  
10                 a server unit having:  
                storing means for correlatively storing the  
identification information and management information  
of the data recording medium, and  
                wherein the server unit is configured to read  
15                 the management information stored by the storing means  
in accordance with the identification information  
transmitted from the information terminal unit and to  
provide a service in accordance with the management  
information to the information terminal unit.

20                 11.         The information service system as set forth  
in claim 10,  
                wherein the data recording medium is an  
optical disc of which a reproduction signal is obtained  
in accordance with reflected light of radiated light.

25                 12.         The information service system as set forth  
in claim 10,  
                wherein the management information contains

use limit information that represents a license of a user for content data recorded on the data recording medium.

13. The information service system as set forth  
5 in claim 12,

wherein the use limit information contains at least one of the number of times the content data recorded on the data recording medium can be reproduced, the reproduction expiration date and time, and the 10 number of times the content data recorded on the data recording medium can be copied.

14. The information service system as set forth in claim 10, further comprising:

an identification information reading unit 15 for reading the identification information recorded on the data recording medium and transmitting the identification information to the server unit when the data recording medium is obtained.

15. The information service system as set forth  
20 in claim 14,

wherein the identification information reading unit is configured to set user's license for the data recording medium and transmit the license to the server unit along with the identification 25 information.

16. The information service system as set forth in claim 10,

wherein when data is reproduced from the data recording medium, the identification information that has been read from the data recording medium and information that represents a use mode of the data recording medium are transmitted from the information terminal unit to the server unit, and

5           wherein the server unit is configured to rewrite the management information in accordance with the identification information and the information that represents the uses state that have been transmitted.

10          17.       The information service system as set forth in claim 10,

15          wherein when data is reproduced from the data recording medium by the reproducing means, the information terminal unit is configured to transmit the identification information that has been read by the identification information reading means to the server unit, and

20          25       wherein the server unit is configured to issue key data that allows content data recorded on the data recording medium to be reproduced in accordance with the management information that has been read from the storing means in accordance with the identification information that has been transmitted and transmit the key data to the information terminal unit.

18.       The information service system as set forth in claim 17,

wherein license information for content data recorded on the data recording medium is added to the key data in accordance with the management information.

19. The information service system as set forth  
5 in claim 10,

wherein the information terminal unit is configured to store a part of the management information.

20. A reproducing or recording controlling method,  
10 comprising the steps of:

reading identification information that is unique to a non-recordable data recording medium therefrom;

15 transmitting the identification information that has been read at the identification information reading step to a server unit that has correlatively stored the identification information and management information of the data recording medium on which the identification information has been recorded; and

20 receiving the management information correlated with the transmitted identification information from the server unit,

25 wherein it is controlled whether to reproduce the content data from the data recording medium or to record the content data reproduced from the data recording medium to another recording medium.

21. The reproducing or recording controlling

method as set forth in claim 20,  
wherein the data recording medium is an  
optical disc of which a reproduction signal is obtained  
in accordance with reflected light of radiated light.

5 22. The reproducing or recording controlling  
method as set forth in claim 20,

wherein the management information contains  
use limit information that represents a license of a  
user for content data recorded on the data recording  
medium.

10 23. The reproducing or recording controlling  
method as set forth in claim 22,

wherein the use limit information contains at  
least one of the number of times the content data  
recorded on the data recording medium can be reproduced,  
the reproduction expiration date and time, and the  
number of times the content data recorded on the data  
recording medium can be copied.

15 24. The reproducing or recording controlling  
method as set forth in claim 20,

wherein the server unit is configured to  
transmit key data that has been issued by the server  
unit in accordance with the management information  
correlated with the identification information, the key  
25 data being configured to control whether to reproduce  
content data recorded on the data recording medium or  
to record the content data recorded on the data

recording medium to another recording medium.

25. The reproducing or recording controlling method as set forth in claim 24,

wherein license information for the content data recorded on the data recording medium is further added to the key data in accordance with the management information.

26. A reproducing and/or recording controlling unit, comprising:

10 identification information reading means for reading identification information that is unique to a non-recordable data recording medium therefrom;

identification information transmitting means for transmitting the identification information that has been read by the identification information reading means to a server unit that has correlatively stored the identification information and management information of the data recording medium on which the identification information has been recorded; and

20 receiving means for receiving from the server unit the management information correlated with the identification information transmitted from the identification information transmitting means,

wherein it is controlled whether to reproduce the content data from the data recording medium or to record the content data reproduced from the data recording medium to another data recording medium in

accordance with the management information received by the receiving means.

27. The reproducing and/or recording controlling unit as set forth in claim 20,

5 wherein the data recording medium is an optical disc of which a reproduction signal is obtained in accordance with reflected light of radiated light.

28. The reproducing and/or recording controlling unit as set forth in claim 20,

10 wherein the management information contains use limit information that represents a license of a user for content data recorded on the data recording medium.

29. The reproducing and/or recording controlling unit as set forth in claim 22,

15 wherein the use limit information contains at least one of the number of times the content data recorded on the data recording medium can be reproduced, the reproduction expiration date and time, and the 20 number of times the content data recorded on the data recording medium can be copied.

30. The reproducing and/or recording controlling unit as set forth in claim 26,

25 wherein the receiving means is configured to receive key data issued by the server unit in accordance with the management information correlated with the identification information transmitted from

the identification information transmitting means, the key data being configured to control whether to reproduce the content data recorded on the data recording medium or to record the content data recording on the data recording medium to another recording medium.

5           31.       The reproducing and/or recording controlling unit as set forth in claim 30,

10           wherein license information for the content data recorded on the data recording medium is further added to the key data in accordance with the management information.

15           32.       The reproducing and/or recording controlling unit as set forth in claim 26,

wherein the unit is configured to store a part of the management information.